

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09577 091609Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2056

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9577

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS, LA, KN, CB

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS OF ASIA, KOREA, INDOCHINA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM RELATED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SOVIET VIEWS OF ASIA FROM A CONVERSATION LAST WEEK WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN, WHO IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS.

2. KOREA. FIRYUBIN SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS NORTH OBJECTIVE OF PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO THIS OBJECTIVE IS THE "REACTIONARY" PARK REGIME AND THE PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA, SAID DIRYUBIN.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09577 091609Z

REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION SEES NO

EARLY PROSPECT FOR REUNIFICATION. RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS ON THE KOREAN SITUATION HAD, SAID FIRYUBIN, BEEN "RECKLESS."
(COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THE U.S. STATEMENTS WHICH FIRYUBIN REFERRED TO WERE THOSE CONCERNING POSSIBLE U.S. RESPONSES TO A NORTH KOREAN ATTACK, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NOT TO THOSE CONCERNING A NEW ARMISTICE ARRANGEMENT, WHICH CAME OUT ONLY A DAY OR TWO BEFORE SAHM'S CONVERSATION.) FIRYUBIN DID NOT REPLY TO SAHM'S QUERY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ADMISSION OF BOTH KOREAS TO THE UN.

3. VIETNAM. REUNIFICATION WOULD BE A "NATURAL PROCESS," SAID FIRYUBIN, BUT IT WAS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON THE TIMING OR MANNER IN WHICH IT WOULD OCCUR. THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORD ON VIETNAM FORESAW A UNIFIED VIETNAM. THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALREADY PROVIDED "CONSIDERABLE" ECONOMIC AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND WOULD BE SENDING MORE. THIS WAS, IN FIRYUBIN'S WORDS, A "FAR-SIGHTED POLICY." THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO BURMA, WHO HAS BEEN ACCREDITED TO THE PRG SINCE 1973, RECENTLY VISITED SAIGON AND THE SOVIETS ARE LOOKING FOR PROPERTY THERE FOR A MISSION AND STAFF. FIRYUBIN SAID THAT MOSCOW HAS NO DETAILS ON CHINESE AID TO VIETNAM, BUT HE SAID THAT HE THINKS THE PRC DOES NOT HAVE A "NORMAL" RELATIONSHIP WITH HANOI. THERE IS A LATENT POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO, HE SAID, AND MENTIONED DIFFERENCES OVER THE PARACEL AND SPRATLEY ISLANDS.

4. CAMBODIA. THE SOVIETS, SAID FIRYUBIN, HAVE NO REPRESENTATIVES AND NO INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA. THE CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO MOSCOW IS ALOS ACCREDITED TO BUCHAREST AND SPENDS NEARLY ALL OF HIS TIME THERE, FIRYUBIN EXPLAINED. HE IS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS. THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC CHINESE IN CAMBODIA WILL ALLOW PEKING TO MAINTAIN THE UPPER HAND THERE, FIRYUBIN SAID. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE RECENT REPORTS OF CLASHES BETWEEN THE CAMBODIANS AND VIETNAMESE AND SAID THAT MOSCOW HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THOSE REPORTS.

5. LAOS. FIRYUBIN DENIED THAT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS WERE A SEQUEL TO THOSE IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. RATHER, HE SAID, LAOS WAS IN THE PROCESS OF "NORMALIZING" ITS INTERNAL
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 09577 091609Z

AFFAIRS BY GETTING RID OF "RIGHTISTS" AND OTHERS WHO OPPOSED SUCH "NORMALIZATION."
BREMENT

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